(e) and (f) The information is available with the oil companies concerned.

Simultaneous introduction of emission norms

1413. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce Euro-III equivalent emission norms in the metropolitan cities by April 1, 2005 and the rest of the country by 2010;

(b) if so, the reasons for the long gap in introduction in the rest of the country; and

(c) the steps taken to introduce the emission norms simultaneously throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the road map laid down in the Auto Fuel Policy approved by the Government, fuel and new vehicles compalying with Euro-III equivalent emission norms would be introduced in the metropolitan cities and other identified cities by April 1, 2005 and in rest of the country by April 1, 2010.

(b) The quality improvement projects entail heavy investments in plant, equipment and technology. Besides, reliable and accurate data demonstrating the impact of improved emission norms on air quality is required before introducing the higher norms throughout the country. Studies have already been initiated to assess the impact of improved emission on air quality and the results are expected to available towards the end of year 2005. As such, the Government, after due consideration, have decided to hold a review in the year 2006 after the implementation of Euro-III equivalent emission norms in the identified cities and Bharat Stage-II emission norms in the entire country with effect from April 1, 2005, before taking a decision on implementing Euro-III equivalent norms in the entire country with effect from 1.4.2010.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.